

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-14, 16, 17, 19 and 23 are pending. Claims 4-14 and 16 are canceled. Claims 1-4, 17, 19 and 23 are rejected. Claim 1 is amended and new claims 27-36 are added.

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of method claims; previous method claims 4-14 and 16 are now canceled and rewritten as new claims 27-36, thus introducing no new matter.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment which is believed to place the application in complete condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 17, 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Achilefu U.S. Patent No. 6,180,085.

The Examiner states that "...it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art that the $-(CH_2)_9-N(R^{14})-(CH_2)_2-CO_2H$, etc. substituted 2,3,3-trimethyl-4,5-benzo-3H-indolene intermediates of Achilefu et al. may be the $(CH_2)_9-N(R^{14})-(CH_2)_2-CO_2^-$ derivative as one skilled in the art would know that the structures are analogous."

Claim 1 is amended to delete $-(CH_2)_9-N(R_a)-(CH_2)_2-CO_2^-$. Thus, Applicants believe the rejection is overcome and respectfully request its withdrawal.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the application is in complete condition for allowance and authorize credit card payment of the fee to Request Continued Examination (see Electronic Fee Calculation sheet). The Office is authorized to charge any other fees deemed necessary to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative with questions.

Respectfully submitted,
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